

GRAIN GROWERS
OF CANADA



LES PRODUCTEURS
DE GRAINS DU CANADA

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Members:

Alberta Barley
Commission

Alberta Grain
Commission

Alberta Oat Rye &
Triticale Association

Alberta Pulse Growers

Alberta Winter Wheat
Producers Commission

Atlantic Grains Council

British Columbia Grain
Producers Association

Canadian Canola
Growers Association

Manitoba Corn Growers
Association

Prairie Oat Growers
Association

Western Barley
Growers Association

Western Canadian
Wheat Growers
Association

Hon. Gerry Ritz
Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

August 4th, 2010

Dear Minister Ritz,

Re: Support of Government's Safety Nets Position

The Grain Growers of Canada, representing over 80,000 farmers through our membership organizations, wish to express our full support for your strong stance against any safety net framework that would encourage trade action against Canadian farmers.

90% of Canadian farmers are dependent on export markets and pricing for their living, and any program that does not take this fact into consideration is unacceptable.

In addition to possible trade retaliation and countervail, cost-of-production or similar models may undermine Canada's image on the global stage as a defender of free and open markets. This could hinder our ability to make substantial progress on many market access files from the WTO to the European Union free trade talks.

Improvements can be made to the current suite of Growing Forward programs in order to improve predictability and speed of payments. However, we urge you to continue using caution in structuring BRM programs that may put at risk the ability of vast majority of Canadian farmers to make a living from the marketplace.

We look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure the next generation of farm support programs meets the needs of all Canadian producers.

Sincerely,

Doug Robertson
President
Grain Growers of Canada